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Judge upholds no contact order in Farmington dog shooting case

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ROCHESTER — District Court Judge Susan Ashley denied the request of a Farmington man charged with shooting a dog and a wall to change his bail conditions and allow him to contact his family.

Jason A. Parent, 32, of 32 Grove St., waived his probable cause hearing Thursday on four felonies — three counts of reckless conduct and a cruelty to animals charge — stemming from two incidents where he allegedly killed his dog, a mixed-breed beagle-hound named "Brownie" on March 13, and then 11 days later fired two bullets into a wall in an office above his garage.

On March 24, Parent allegedly fired two shots from a .40-caliber handgun in the presence of his wife and business partner during a dispute in their business office. Parent later surrendered to police after his wife took the weapon away and both she and his business partner went outside.

Parent was held in Strafford County House of Corrections until he posted \$50,000 surety bail.

In the course of investigating that incident police learned Parent had allegedly discharged a gun in the home previously on March 13 where he shot the family dog four times in what he described as "a mercy killing." During a consent search, police located the dog's body in the woods behind Parent's home.

Parent was once again released from jail on Wednesday on \$50,000 surety bail with the conditions he undergo a psychological evaluation and have no contact with his business partner, his wife and his daughter. He is currently staying at 79 Hawthorne Hill Road and is being monitored via electronic bracelet by the Strafford County Community Corrections Program.

When he appeared in Rochester District Court on Thursday morning, Parent's attorney, Stephen Gaige motioned to amend the bail conditions to allow Parent to see his family.

Gaige said Parent's wife, who was present in court on Thursday, was willing to speak on behalf of her husband.

"She has never had any concerns about her safety or her daughter's safety during either incident," Gaige said, adding Parent plans to continue undergoing counseling as well.

While the prosecutor, Assistant Strafford County Attorney Amy Feliciano, also supported Parent's request, Ashley said she could not agree to it based on the available evidence, including an analysis by medical officials.

"The court has to have some sort of confidence that he is not a danger to himself or the

community," Ashley said, adding Parent could file another motion with Strafford County Superior Court in Dover if he desired.

All charges are Class B felonies punishable by a maximum of 3 1/2 to 7 years in prison.
